

# WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for authentication and registration of messenger product users from an affiliated service provider that is not perceptible by the messenger product user, said method comprising the steps of:

launching the messenger product by a user from a client computer connected with the affiliate service provider;

querying, by the messenger service provider, an affiliate service provider server for user authentication data when necessary or desired;

returning, by the affiliate service provider server, the user authorization data to the messenger service provider server;

determining, by the messenger service provider server, the validity of the user authorization data; and

wherein if the user authorization information is determined to be valid, access is granted to the user by loading the messenger product on the user's client computer, and wherein otherwise a second query for authentication is made.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the launching of the messenger product further comprises submitting a hidden form, from a document.form.submit function, or similar form submit function, on the affiliate site, to the messenger service provider, thereby generating a login request.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the document.form.submit includes customization parameters.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing messenger customization parameters to the messenger service provider.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing messenger customization parameters to the messenger service provider, wherein said parameters are selected from the group consisting of :

custom image data;

custom background colors data;

custom skin data;

custom ad banner data; and

default language data.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the querying authentication information on an affiliate service provider server comprises a query by the messenger service provider server to a senduser script located on the affiliate service provider server.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the senduser script is protected by an IP block.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the senduser script is protected by username and password.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the user authorization data comprises a user name and password unique to the user.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the user authorization data is encrypted.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein user authorization data is returned to the messenger service provider in XML format.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the second query for authentication comprises:  
comparing the user authorization data with a messenger service provider database;  
requesting updated user information from the affiliated site, if user exists in the messenger service provider database, or

requesting new user information from the affiliated site, if user does not exist in the messenger service provider database;

if user does not exist on the affiliated site, denying user access to messenger;

if user exists on the affiliated site, updating the messenger service provider database and compare the authorization data with the updated service provider database;

if the authorization data is not valid, denying the user access to messenger;

if the authorization data is valid, granting access to the user by loading the messenger product on the user's client computer.

13. A system for providing an affiliate user access to an Internet messenger, comprising:

a messenger service provider containing at least one Web server and a database containing user registration data, including usernames and passwords for each user;

at least one affiliate capable of connecting with affiliate users, containing at least one Web server, a database of affiliate user data and at least one code template;

an affiliate user with a client computer connected to the affiliate site;

a customizable messenger product accessible by affiliate users.